

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended in order to more clearly define the claimed invention. Support for the amendment is found at page 8, lines 18 - 20 and page 15, lines 20 - 24 of the present specification.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed February 22, 2007.

The present invention is a wiring harness slack absorbing device with a case having a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover for receiving a wiring harness. The case has an inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and an outlet formed in the rear wall for the wiring harness, the inlet being perpendicular to the outlet. The device further includes an urging member for urging the wiring harness toward an inside of the case, and a harness roller around which the wiring harness is rolled and turned in a U-shape. The harness roller reciprocally moves under acting force of the urging member. A space for receiving a folded part of the wiring harness formed by forming an overlap and then bending the wiring harness 90 degrees, is provided between the base wall of the case and the urging member, and the folded part of the wiring harness is led into the case through the inlet and received in the space, such that the wiring harness is led inside the case, rolled around the roller and turned in the U-shape, and led out through the outlet.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al. (JP2001-103644). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Kawamura et al. discloses a device comprising: a case (21) having a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover for receiving a wire harness having an inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and an outlet formed in the rear wall for the wire harness, the inlet being perpendicular to the outlet; an urging member (26) for urging the wire harness toward an inside of the case; and a harness roller around which the wire harness being rolled, the harness roller is reciprocally moving under acting forth of the urging member, wherein a space for receiving a folded part of the wiring harness, formed by forming an overlap and then bending the wiring harness 90 degrees, is provided between the case and the urging member and wherein the folded part of the wiring harness is led into the case through the inlet and received in the space.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Kawamura et al. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Kawamura et al. discloses a device, wherein a center axis of the urging member is displaced from a center plane of the harness roller in a direction of thickness of the device for providing a large said space for receiving the folded part of; the wiring harness or alternatively, the device of Kawamura et al. discloses the claimed invention except wherein a center axis of the urging member is displaced from a center plane of the harness roller in a direction of thickness of the device for providing a large said space for receiving the folded part of the wiring harness. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use a center axis

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of the urging member displaced from a center plane of the harness roller in a direction of thickness of the device for providing a large said space for receiving the folded part of the wiring harness in order to receive a folded part.

Regarding Kawamura et al., it is respectfully submitted that component (26) does not urge the wiring harness toward an inside of the case, as claimed. Also, the component referred to as a roller, in Fig. 6, biases the wiring harness and the wiring harness is not rolled around the roller and turned in a U-shape, as claimed. Additionally, alleged urging member (26) does not provide an acting force on the alleged roller, as claimed.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, and the above remarks, removal of the rejections in view of Kawamura et al. is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 1 and 2 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.


If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

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In the event that any fees are due in connection to this paper, please charge our Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

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